

# Regents Recap

Highlights of the Activities and Official Actions of the Louisiana Board of Regents

February 28, 2006

## MacArthur Foundation Selects Board of Regents To Administer Juvenile Justice Grant

The Board of Regents has been selected by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation as the lead agency for the administration of a five-year, \$7.5 million juvenile justice reform grant. The Regents will partner with the Louisiana State University System to administer the "Models For Change" initiative, designed to identify and accelerate promising state models for juvenile justice system reform. In June of last year, the MacArthur Foundation announced that Louisiana had been selected to participate in the initiative. Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Washington will also participate.

MacArthur Foundation representative Laurie Garduque appeared at the Louisiana Board of Regents Executive Committee meeting on February 23 to formally announce the Board's selection.

"During the process of interviewing stakeholders and reviewing Louisiana's juvenile justice goals it became apparent that higher education would have a role to play," Garduque said. "The policymaking, research and supervisory role that the Board of Regents plays in the state, as well as the vision expressed by the Commissioner of Higher Education, the Board of Regents Chairman and the LSU System President, convinced us that this partnership would best serve the purposes of the Models for Change initiative. The LSU System will complement the Regents' role by providing personnel and system-wide participation in accomplishing the goals of the initiative."

"Given the sociological and legal research capacity of our public postsecondary education system, and the geographic distribution of our campuses, we are in an excellent position to lead this important effort," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "We look forward to our role in the Models for Change initiative."

The goal of the MacArthur initiative is to promote systems that hold young offenders accountable for their actions, provide for their rehabilitation, protect them from harm, increase their life chances, and manage the risk they pose to themselves and to public safety. In order to achieve this goal, MacArthur interviewed dozens of Louisiana stakeholders in order to select a lead entity and a project director to administer, plan and implement the grant.

MacArthur also announced that it has chosen Debra DePrato of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center as the project director for the grant.

"Dr. DePrato has had the unique opportunity to develop a program within the juvenile justice system that allowed her hands-on experience in dealing with many of the issues that will be addressed in our initiative," Garduque said.

For the past six years DePrato has been the director of the medical, mental health and dental program that LSUHSC provides to the Office of Youth Development (OYD) in its secure care facilities. DePrato has resigned as OYD Program Director in order to dedicate her efforts to this initiative. She will remain an employee at the LSUHSC. The Board of Regents will contract for her services through LSU.

The Models For Change grant is a commitment of \$1.5 million per year for five (5) years. The Board of Regents will receive a portion of the total grant each year to cover the cost of contracting with LSU for personnel and the expenses incurred by the board in administering the grant. The remaining funds will then be given directly by MacArthur to grantees throughout the state identified through a process established by a National Research Board created by MacArthur to provide technical assistance to the project director and the lead entity.

The Chicago-based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation is a private, independent grantmaking institution dedicated to helping groups and individuals foster lasting improvement in the human condition. With assets of more than \$5 billion, the Foundation awards approximately \$200 million in grants each year.



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## Board Action - February 22-23, 2006

### Program Approvals

The Board of Regents approved the following proposed new academic programs:

#### Proposed New Academic Programs:

University of Louisiana-Lafayette/Southeastern Louisiana University - Joint Ed.D. in Educational Leadership.  
Louisiana Technical College, Shreveport-Bossier Campus  
- Associate of Applied Science in Drafting & Design Technology.

### Regents Updated On Post-Katrina/Rita Research and Education Forum

Dr. Kerry Davidson, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, reminded the Board that on October 27, 2005, funding had been approved to host two forums to explore how science and engineering ideas can help rebuild the environmental, social, health, and business landscapes of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricanes. Davidson informed the Board that Regents staff is working closely with the Forum Planning Committee on preparations for the first forum, entitled "Science Recovery and Discovery: The Role of Higher Education in Securing a Sustainable Future," which will be held April 2-4, 2006 in New Orleans.

Dr. Davidson also introduced the chair and co-chairs of the 2006 Forum Planning Committee: Dr. Robert Twilley, Director of the Wetlands Biogeochemistry Institute, LSU A&M College (chair); and Dr. John Clements, Professor and Chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Tulane University; and Dr. Shirley Laska, Director of the Center for Hazards Assessment, Response and Technology (CHART) and Professor of Sociology, University of New Orleans. Twilley summarized for the Board the conceptual and organizational framework for the 2006 Forum.

### Master Plan Document Revisions Approved

Dr. Larry Tremblay reminded the Board that following the adoption of the *Master Plan*, Regents staff had prepared, and the Board had adopted, a *Master Plan Issues* document to provide further definition and clarification regarding issues in the plan, particularly implementation of admissions criteria. The following changes to that document were approved by the Board:

1. Aligning the Regents' Core Curriculum with the TOPS Core Curriculum, effective with the 2008 high school graduating class.
2. Revising the percentage of the entering class and transfer students allowed to be admitted as exceptions.
3. Clarifying language regarding transfer students.
4. Waiving the high school rank requirement for Louisiana 2006 high school graduates displaced to other states by the 2005 hurricanes.
5. Adding appropriate internet-based scores for the TOEFL.

### Regents Approve Resolution Responses

The Board adopted staff reports and approved accompanying recommendations regarding three 2005 House Resolutions requiring responses from the Regents.

House Resolution 14 asked the Board to study the feasibility of merging Delgado Community College with Nunez Community College as a way to ameliorate the impact of Hurricane Katrina on postsecondary education in the New Orleans area. The Regents report concluded that since (among other reasons) Act 506 of the 2005 Legislative Session calls for the creation of new cross-campus alliances in every region of the state for the delivery of community and technical college education (now particularly critical for New Orleans), the recommendations in the Regents' response to Act 506 (now under consideration by the LCTCS Board) should be implemented prior to any other considerations.

In addition, House Resolution 16 directed the Board of Regents to study the feasibility of merging Southern University - New Orleans with the University of New Orleans. The Regents report recommended that because of several issues, including the dissimilarity of curricula, admissions criteria, and enrollment profiles, a merger is not feasible.

Finally, House Resolution 106 directed the Regents to consider the feasibility of transferring the governance of Louisiana Technical College from LCTCS to the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. This transfer of governance was also deemed not currently feasible in light of the potential impact of Act 506.

### Noel-Levitz Enrollment Recovery Workshop Update Presented

Theresa Hay updated the Board on the enrollment recovery workshop held in Baton Rouge on January 31 and February 1. The workshop was attended by 85 people, including all public systems and institutions, as well as private institutions and LAICU. Additionally, presentations were made by staff of the Department of Education.

The purpose of the workshop was to identify enrollment recovery strategies at the institution, system and state level. A document produced as a result of the workshop identified 105 strategies, grouped under 9 major imperatives. According to Hay, Regents staff have reviewed the document, identifying which strategies are best delegated to which level of implementation.

Several of the strategies address the need to collect contact information for displaced students and the development of a web-application or website. With the help of ACT, the staff has recently received the names and addresses of almost 400 high school seniors from the affected areas of the state who took the PLAN in the 10th grade or the ACT in the 11th grade and have recently taken the ACT out of state. Regents staff is also working on the development of the web information site.

**For more information on these and other Board of Regents actions, please visit our web site at [www.regents.state.la.us](http://www.regents.state.la.us)**